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ad@starofmysore.com

MYSURU Tuesday 20th April 2021
City Offices: K.R. Circle Ph: 2431774
Devaraja Urs Road Ph: 2428695
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Trauma Care Centre to treat COVID patients from tomorrow

100 beds ready

FROM LEFT: ***MP Pratap Simha, District in-Charge Minister S.T. Somashekar, MUDA Chairman H.V. Rajeev, Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri and others inspecting the Trauma Care Centre on KRS Road this morning.***

Vaccination Centre shifted to Govt. Ayurveda Panchakarma Hospital

Mysuru, Apr. 20 (RK&SSV)- With no let up in Corona positive cases, the District Administration has decided to convert Trauma Care Centre situated in the premises of PKTB Hospital on KRS Road in city as COVID Hospital from tomorrow.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rohini Sindhuri said that the Trauma Care Centre, which is under the control of Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (MMC&RI), will be used to treat Corona positive patients from tomorrow. Whatever manpower such as doctors, nurses, paramedics and infrastructure like beds, cots and oxygen required to treat patients will be provided to the Centre immediately.

Dr. Virupaksha, Medical Superintendent, PKTB Hospital, Dr. Jayashekar, Resident Medical Officer and Nodal Officer of PKTB, and Dr. Prashanth, Associate Professor of MMC&RI, are personally supervising setting up of 100 beds including 10 ICU beds at Trauma Care Centre. The second floor of the building has been reserved for asymptomatic and patients with mild symptoms.

The ICU beds were located in the ground floor. New cots and mattresses have been arranged at the Centre. This Centre would be helpful to shift asymptomatic patients. Already, Mandakalli COVID Care Centre was fully readied to handle patients with mild symptoms.

Vaccination at new location

The vaccination drive, which was going on in Trauma Care Centre till now, will be shifted to the nearby Government Ayurveda Hi-Tech Panchakarma Hospital in Brindavan Extension, till further orders, the DC added.

(See 100 BEDS on page 7)

Fake Remdesivir injections

One arrested; Four including two medical representatives taken into custody; Accused sold 800-900 injections after filling it with cheap antibiotics, saline water

Mysuru, Apr. 20 (KS&BCT)- The City Police have busted a fake Remdesivir racket by arresting a staff nurse from a reputed hospital who used to source empty vials of the drug, fill them with cheap antibiotics or just saline solution and resell them to needy COVID-19 patients at exorbitant rates.

Many vials labelled as Remdesivir, which is used for the treatment of COVID-19, but actually filled with nothing but paracetamol in liquid form and saline solution, have been seized. Remdesivir is an experimental investigational drug that has been granted emergency authorisation to be administered to critically ill COVID-19 patients.

Of late, the drug has been in huge demand ever since pharmacists ran out of stock and the State Government began supplying it directly to hospitals so that the patients desperately in need can get the injection. Taking advantage of the shortage, black-marketers started releasing the fake drug. Not only in Mysuru, the fake racket is spread across India and there have been arrests of the accused in cities including Bengaluru.

City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta briefing press persons about the seized fake Remdesivir injections.

Amidst growing reports and complaints of fake Remdesivir vials making rounds in city amid the resurgence of COVID-19 cases and also reports of vested interests hoarding the injection, a special team of the City Crime Branch (CCB) was formed. The CCB team stumbled upon a large quantity of fake Remdesivir medicine in the house of Girish, a male nurse working with a reputed private hospital, at Vidyanagar, in Nazarbad Police limits.

Refilling empty vials

Addressing reporters at his office in city last evening, City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta said that Girish was collecting empty bottles of Remdesivir from the hospital where he was working and was refilling them with 'Cefuroxime', 'Ceftriaxone' (antibiotic), liquid paracetamol and even saline water before selling it to desperate buyers for an inflated price.

(See INJECTIONS on page 7)

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Tuesday 20th April 2021

Ph.D awardees

Mysuru, Apr. 20- **The University of Mysore (UoM)** has awarded Ph.D in Electronics to **D.B. Anitha** for her thesis 'PCB Defect Detection Using Image Processing Techniques' submitted under the guidance of Dr. Mahesh Rao.

Sri Siddhartha Academy of Higher Education (Sri Siddhartha University), Tumakuru, has awarded Ph.D. in Chemistry to **Sanjeeva Murthy** for his thesis "A study of Crystal and Molecular structure of commercially valued compounds" submitted under the guidance of Dr. M. K. Veeraiah.

S.N. Sheshadri has been awarded Ph.D in Chemistry by **Sri Siddhartha Academy of Higher Education, Tumakuru,** for his thesis titled "Crystal and molecular structure studies of few Chalcones, Esters and Organic Salts" submitted under the guidance of Dr. M.K. Veeraiah.

Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), Belagavi, has awarded Ph.D in Mechanical Engineering Sciences to **G. K. Swapna,** for her thesis 'Optimization of Biodiesel Production from Mixture of Animal Waste Fat Oil, Used Cooking Oil and their Effects on CI Engine Parameters' submitted under the guidance of Dr. Mallikarjunayya C. Math.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

Despite investing tax-payer monies for the development of vaccines, the US Government is allowing Big Pharma to pocket supernormal profits, instead of treating these critical products as merit goods that should be made available to the public at large at nominal prices. If the US and other developed countries are so strongly committed to supporting the penchant for profits of Big Pharma, is it reasonable to expect that they would agree to the India-South Africa proposal for making vaccines and medicines available to all? "Vaccine nationalism" has been one of the major stumbling blocks to equitable distribution of the COVID vaccines. It is by now well-known that several high-income countries have acquired enough doses to vaccinate their population several times over, while most developing countries are struggling to roll out their vaccine programmes. Yet another form of "vaccine nationalism" is being experienced by the Serum Institute of India (SII) as the company struggles to meet its vaccine supplies' commitments. The US, on which the Indian vaccine producer depends for meeting its requirements of specialised bags and filters, cell culture media, single-use tubing and specialised chemicals, has invoked a Cold War legislation, the Defence Production Act, to choke exports, and to help in ramping up America's domestic production of vaccines. — Biswajit Dhar in The New Indian Express

NEWS SPARKLERS

Get inked and receive free burgers for a year

California: A California-based restaurant chain is offering customers free burgers for a year if they get hamburger tattoos bearing the eatery's name.

Farmer Boys announced it partnered with The Honorable Society tattoo shop in West Hollywood, Calif., and Rockin Ink Tattoo in Las Vegas to offer three different 2-inch-by-2-inch tattoo designs. Customers who receive the tattoos will receive free burgers for a year from Farmer Boys locations.

Farmer Boys said the promotion celebrates the chain's 40th anniversary. Customers can sign up for tattoo appointments on the restaurant's website.

Record holder cuts hair, donates locks to museum

Modasa: An Indian woman who set the Guinness World Record for the longest hair on a teenager received her first haircut since age 6 and donated the cut hair for display at the Ripley's Believe It or Not! Museum.

Nilanshi Patel, 18, of Modasa, Gujarat, first set the Guinness record for longest hair on a teenager when she was 16 and her hair measured 5 feet, 7 inches long. Patel's hair was measured just days before her 18th birthday and she broke her own record with hair measuring 6 feet, 6.7 inches long.

Patel said she had considered donating her hair to make wigs for children with cancer, but her mother convinced her that it should go on display to inspire others. Her mother said she would donate her own hair to the cancer wig program if her daughter donated it for museum display.

Patel's hair is now being prepared for display at the Ripley's Believe It or Not! Museum and will be transferred to the Guinness World Records Museum in Los Angeles.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Fungal Infection

Fungal Infection is a common infection in the tropics.
There are different types of fungal infection but most of them favour areas of the body which are most & sweaty like the feet, toes, groins, and buttocks & nails.

***Dr. Ravi S.** - Consultant Dermatologist & Cosmetologist*

COLUMBIA ASIA
COLUMBIA ASIA HOSPITAL - MYSORE

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

Finger and toenails are made of keratin, the same protein that your hair is made of. Nutrients required to maintain healthy nails include: Biotin, Collagen, Keratin, Anti-oxidants and Hyaluronic acid. Same for healthy hair.

COVID-19 UPDATE - MYSURU

DATES	APR.18	APR.19
Day's Positive Cases	777	568
Total Positive Cases	61,751	62,319
Day's Discharges	254	373
Total Discharges	57,036	57,409
Day's Deaths	3	8
Total Deaths	1,114	1,122
Total Active Cases	3,601	3,788

NOTE: Figures as per Government Media Bulletin

World Earth Day at Zoo and ZP on Apr. 22

Mysuru, Apr. 20- Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens (Mysuru Zoo) has organised drawing and painting competitions and recycling art competition (for those aged 5 to 18 years) on the occasion of World Earth Day on Apr. 22 at 3 pm in Zoo Amphitheatre. The theme for the competition is 'Restore our Earth.'

As Mysuru Zoo has already implemented Vermicompost, biogas, rain water harvesting, plastic recycling which are sustainable and benefiting Mysuru Zoo, it has welcomed an innovative and sustainable thought which benefits the Mysuru Zoo (no age limit). Interested may go through the link for enrolment *https://forms.gle/hSnAXKEwdUsKk8fS9 before 22/4/2021.* For details contact on Mob: 96866-68099 or Ph: 0821-2440752.

At ZP: Marking World Earth Day, Zilla Panchayat (ZP) has organised exhibition and lectures by subject experts at ZP auditorium on Apr. 22.

REALLY...?

- ***Music can heal the brain:** There's a thing called music therapy where licensed professionals help people with brain damage, heart problems, or with many different physical issues through the power of music. It's especially useful for people who have trouble speaking or comprehending language, whether because of a stroke or some other brain injury. Therapists use a style of singing with certain rhythms that can help bring back the cadence of speech.*

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

IN A SHOE SHOP...

These shoes might be tight for the next two weeks. Don't worry. I'll start wearing them on the third week !!

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 74.74
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 104.61
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 20.35
1 Euro	= Rs. 90.18

VOICE OF THE READER

More on MCC property tax 2021-22

Sir,

Apropos the letter by P.S. Chandranna in *SOM* dated Apr.16, I would like to mention the following aspects to enlighten Mysuru citizens:

1. There appears to be no defect in the software for computation of tax. But it appears to have been developed to increase tax far beyond 15%. Perhaps this percentage is only for public consumption.

2. Tax on land surrounding the building introduced through leaving adequate land around the house is to be encouraged for environmental factor. It need not be a source of revenue to MCC.

3. Increase in Sub-Registrar's guideline values which is linked to property tax cannot be easily understood by property owner.

4. New tax rate structure is on the new guideline value.

5. New garden cess of Rs.500.

As a cumulative effect, each property owner has to pay more than 30 to 50% as known to me.

This apart the increase of tax rates for vacant site owners will be manifold.

The tax administration is an important task of any government and civic bodies. It should be the aim of Government to generate income by not only increasing the rates moderately but also by efficient tax collection. Increasing tax rates will only affect prompt payers and defaulters are not affected.

It is not fair to levy additional cess for garden which should be from out of general resources. We are already paying 26% cesses. It is also not proper to collect more taxes through new names.

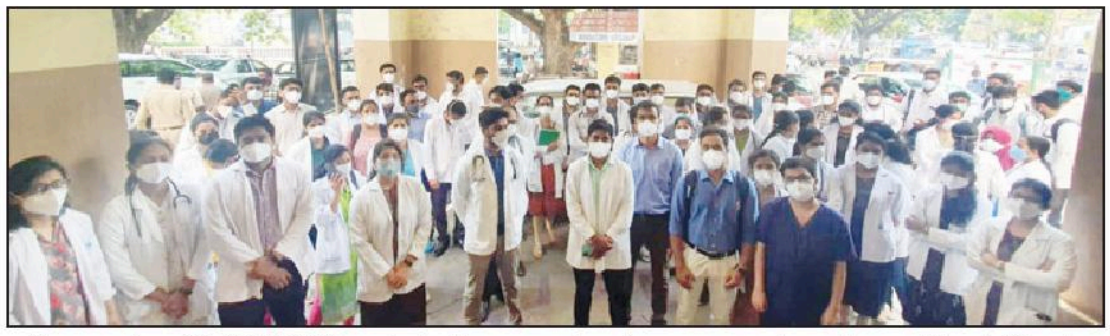
In the absence of manual of taxes with illustrations tax-payers are in the dark. We hope our elected representatives address this issue and help citizens to get relief from huge tax increase.

—M.R. Rangarajan

Gokulam

16.4.2021

Assault: MMC&RI Resident Doctors stage protest



Mysuru, Apr. 20 (MK&SSV)- Members of Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (MMC&RI) Resident Doctors' Association staged a protest in the College premises here yesterday condemning assault on junior doctors working in the COVID Ward.

According to agitating doctors, on Sunday night, a Corona positive patient died in COVID ward and his relatives wanted to come inside the Ward to see the body. However, when they were prevented from doing so as per the guidelines, some persons not only broke the glass windows but also assaulted junior doctors on duty.

At present, there is only one private security guard posted near the Ward and he will be helpless if there is a big crowd, said the doctors who are terrified with the attack.

Dr. B. Shivanand, Vice-President of the Association, who also addressed the striking doctors, demanded protection for duty doctors. The strike had hit the Hospital services.

On receiving information, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Law & Order) Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda visited the spot and promised to deploy Police at the COVID Ward to prevent such incidents in future.

Based on the assurance, Resident Doctors called off their stir and resumed duty.

Property Tax: Extend 5 percent rebate for 3 more months

B.L. Bhyrappa

Mysuru, Apr.20 (PM&DM)- Urging the MCC to extend the 5 percent rebate on property tax for three more months in the wake of COVID-19 crisis, former Mayor B.L. Bhyrappa said that the MCC should also withdraw the steep hike in property tax.

Addressing a press meet here yesterday, Bhyrappa said that the MCC should seriously consider extension of the 5 percent rebate allowed in April every year, by three more months this year as people are reeling under the pandemic. Strongly opposing the steep hike in property tax at a time when people are economically hard hit by COVID-19 crisis, Bhyrappa termed the hike as unscientific and grossly improper.

Asking the MCC to immediately withdraw the hike, he urged the civic body to get the property survey conducted in city by renowned companies such as Infosys to ensure there is no scope for tax evasion.

Ridiculing the MCC for taking into account even empty space for computing property tax, he said this was akin to taxing even air and sunlight. He urged the MCC to review the hike in the better interests of honest property tax payers.

Suttur Seer receives COVID jab

Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji seen receiving COVID vaccination at JSS Hospital in Mysuru on Apr. 17 as doctors and staff look on. Those above 45 years at Suttur Mutt also received the vaccination.

From May 1, vaccination for all above 18 years

New Delhi, Apr. 20 (Agencies)- Considered as a far-reaching decision to protect citizens from COVID-19 pandemic, Government of India said citizens above 18 years of age are now eligible to take vaccination from May 1.

With this, the Government has opened the major segment of the population for vaccination as Corona positive cases have crossed 2.5 lakh daily with over 1,000 casualties.

The medical experts had requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to open up jab for the young population considering protecting their health from the deadly pandemic.

Accordingly, Union Government has relaxed rules for taking vaccination to allow the young population to take vaccination. This was decided at a high level meeting chaired by PM Modi here yesterday.

According to a press release, vaccine manufacturers are empowered to release up to 50 percent of their supply to State Governments and in the open market at a pre-declared price. States are given powers to procure additional vaccine doses directly from the manufacturers, as well as open up vaccination to any category of people above the age of 18.

However, Government of India vaccination drive will continue as before, providing free vaccination for essential and priority populations as defined earlier.

The main elements of the Liberalised and Accelerated Phase 3 Strategy of the National COVID-19 Vaccination programme that would come into effect from May 1, 2021 are as follows:

(i) Vaccine manufacturers would supply 50% of their monthly Central Drugs Laboratory (CDL) released doses to Government of India and would be free to supply the remaining 50% doses to State Governments and in the open market.

(ii) Manufacturers would transparently make an advance declaration of price for 50 percent supply that would be available to State Governments and in open market, before May 1. Based on this price, State Governments, private hospitals, industrial establishments etc., would be able to procure vaccine doses from the manufacturers.

Private Hospitals would have to procure their supplies of COVID-19 vaccine exclusively from the 50 percent supply earmarked for other than Government of India channel. Private vaccination providers shall transparently declare their self-set vaccination price. The eligibility through this channel would be opened up to all adults, that is, everyone above the age of 18.

(vi) Government of India will allocate vaccines to States/UTs based on the criteria of extent of infection (number of active COVID cases) and performance (speed of administration).

Office-bearers

Mysuru, Apr. 20- The following were elected unopposed as office-bearers of Mysuru Veerashaiva Sajjana Sangha, Kabir road in city: S. Ramanand - President, C. Prabhudev - Vice-President, K.V. Pradeepkumar - Hon. Secretary, M.C. Praneshkumar - Assistant Secretary, M.P. Nagaprasad - Treasurer. For details, call Ph: 0821-2439890 or Mob: 96320-70134.

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NEWS BRIEFS

No meat sale

The Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) has banned sale of meat tomorrow (Apr. 21), on account of Ramnavami and Mahaveer Jayanthi (Apr. 25). Accordingly, all meat shops and slaughter houses in MCC limits have been instructed to be closed on both the days.

Kamsale Mahadevaiah commemoration

Marking the 25th death anniversary of Kamsale Mahadevaiah, floral tributes will be offered to the portrait of the folk icon at Kamsale Mahadevaiah circle in Vidyaranyapuram at 10 am tomorrow (Apr.21). MLC A. H. Vishwanath, former MLA M.K. Somashekar, Corporators M.V. Ramprasad and B.V. Manjunath, Writer Prof. Kalegowda Nagavara, Karnataka Sahitya Academy Chairman B. V. Vasanthkumar and others will be present.

Applications invited

The Office of Assistant Commissioner, District National Child Labour Project Society, has invited applications from eligible candidates for appointment to vacant posts of accountants and office assistants. Candidates who have passed B.Com/BBM and aged below 40 years with minimum 5 years experience in accounting can submit their applications within seven days. Candidates with basic knowledge of computers and accounting software such as Tally with excellent verbal and written communication skill in Kannada and English are preferred. Selected candidates will get a monthly stipend of Rs. 16,000. For details, contact Ph: 0821-2541942.

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM

Maximum	:	124.80	feet
Today	:	95.65	feet
Yesterday	:	96.18	feet
Inflow	:	151	cusecs
Outflow	:	4,291	cusecs

KABINI DAM

Maximum	:	2,284.00	feet
Today	:	2261.34	feet
Inflow	:	158	cusecs
Outflow	:	700	cusecs

HARANGI DAM

Maximum	:	2,859.00	feet
Today	:	2,830.42	feet
Inflow	:	50	cusecs
Outflow	:	50	cusecs

Nobody should engage in damaging the country's integrity, says HC Judge

Mysuru, Apr. 20 (RKB&DM)- Stating that nobody should engage in disturbing the unity and integrity of the country in the name of caste and language, Karnataka High Court Judge Ashok G. Nijagannavar stressed on the need for building a strong India.

He was delivering a talk on the topic' Judiciary and Democracy' during the inauguration of Allama Research and Cultural Foundation at a programme organised at Ramagovinda Rangamandira in Nrupatunga Kannada School premises at Ramakrishnanagar in city on Sunday.

Pointing out that though our country is rich in heritage, traditions and resources, he regretted that the country lagged behind on several fronts. Regretting that scores of poor children are deprived of basic right of school education, Justice Ashok Nijagannavar said that the Supreme Court and other Courts have given historical judgements on the welfare of deprived children. The Courts are also doing the job of cautioning the Governments by giving landmark judgements on several issues, he added.

Contending that it is not the job of Courts to oversee the country's administration, he said that the Courts have the responsibility to ensure whether Governments are functioning as per the Constitution.

Observing that Democracy faces threat even when one of the four pillars of Democracy goes out of the way, Justice Nijagannavar said that the Judiciary will step in restoring the basic rights of citizens, when they are deprived of it. Stressing on the need for creating awareness among citizens on their rights, duties and responsibilities, he called for involving NGOs in the efforts to guide the poor on enriching their lives.

Karnataka High Court Judge Ashok G. Nijagannavar seen delivering a talk at the inauguration of Allama Research and Cultural Foundation held at Ramagovinda Rangamandira in Nrupatunga Kannada School premises at Ramakrishnanagar in city on Sunday as others look on.

Former JD(S) MLA Y.S.V. Datta who spoke on the topic' Democracy and the Legislature,' opined that election of unworthy legislators will lead to bad legislations. Regretting the deteriorating standards in legislature, Datta that the roots of Democracy are getting loosened these days because of religious fanaticism and false nationalism. Maintaining that elected representatives of today are lacking in ideological commitment, he said that this has resulted in the creation of many malaises and maladies that have been haunting the society.

Bemoaning the tendency of flex politics where politicians want to become leaders overnight through such publicity moves, Datta said that in the past, leaders used to come to the limelight only by taking part in pro-people movements and struggles. But now this has completely changed, with local politicians becoming leaders overnight, thanks to flex board culture, which has become predominant at present.

Recalling his experience in the Legislature as an MLC for 6 years and as MLA for 5 years, Datta bemoaned that anti-people and anti-poor legislations are being passed currently without any serious debates or discussions and he feels shameful for passing of bad legislations. He also expressed disappointment over the preference of political parties to give tickets to unscrupulous elements .

Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (KSIIDC) Executive Director D.P. Prakash spoke on the topic 'Democracy and the Executive,' while senior Journalist Dr. Jagadish Koppa spoke on the topic' Democracy and Media.' Allama Research and Cultural Foundation President Chinnaswamy Vaddagere, Convenor S.P. Madhu, Secretary B. Rajesh and others were present.

KSRTC City Bus service returns to near normal

Mysuru, Apr. 20 (PM&DM) - Even as the indefinite strike launched by the employees of the four State-run Road Transport Corporations (RTCs) - KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC and NEKRTC seeking fulfilment of their various demands entered the fourteenth day today, City Bus services returned to near normal this morning, with the operation of over 220 buses in the first shift.

The RTC employees are on a strike since Apr. 7, to press the Government for meeting their nine-point charter of demands, which chiefly included payment of salary as per the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission.

Mysuru also saw a marked improvement in the operation of mofussil buses from the Sub-Urban Bus Stand, with more KSRTC buses plying to different destinations.

KSRTC City Divisional Controller S.P. Nagaraj told *Star of Mysore* that more than 220 out of the 375 buses operated in the morning today and the services will improve further by afternoon. Stating that a total of 1,422 drivers, conductors and driver-cum-conductors have been attached to Mysuru City Division, he said that except for 200 personnel, all others have reported for duty.

Maintaining that only 30 personnel have been transferred as a disciplinary action, Nagaraj said that the impact of the strike has not been felt much in city as the Department had made alternative transport arrangements by allowing private buses and other public transport vehicles to ply on city routes.

He further said that though there is a big improvement in operation of city buses, other public transport vehicles, which have been given temporary permission, were also operating from the City Bus Stand. However, the operation of private vehicles is more on H.D. Kote route, he added.

KSRTC Mysuru Rural Divisional Controller K.H. Srinivas said that the division operated more than 50 percent of the scheduled trips to different destinations. Pointing out that 56 percent of the staff attached to the division have returned to duty, he said that mofussil services have improved with the operation of more number of buses with each passing day.

Noting that the impact of the transport strike was not felt much in the district, Srinivas said that, however, the number of commuters has dropped due to the surge in COVID-19 cases.

Maintaining that over 50 percent of the 575 buses of the division were back on roads with improved attendance of staff, he said that the drop in the number of commuters has been a cause of worry as it will have a huge impact on revenue earnings.

Virajpet Town Panchayat Vice-President passes away

Virajpet, Apr. 20 - K.B. Harshavardhan (45), Vice-President of Virajpet Town Panchayat and a prominent BJP leader of Kodagu district, passed away following a heart attack on Monday morning.

Harshavardhan

Harshavardhan, who suffered a heart attack, was immediately rushed to a hospital in Virajpet, where he breathed his last.

Harshavardhan was elected from Meenpet Ward in the Town Panchayat. He leaves behind his mother, wife Divya, two children and a host of relatives and friends.

Harshavardhan had also served as the President of Kodagu District Hindu Malayali Association.

Virajpet TP Office, shops and other business establishments in the town were shut for two hours in the afternoon as a mark of respect for the departed leader.

Virajpet MLA K.G. Bopaiah and a host of other BJP leaders were among those who paid their last respects. Last rites were performed yesterday evening, according to sources.

Trees CLEARED from 10 piers of Heritage Bridge over Kapila

YUVA BRIGADE volunteers remove huge tree trunks threatening the structure's safety

Mysuru, Apr. 20 (BCT)-The Heritage Rail-Road Bridge across River Kabini or Kapila at Nanjangud, which is reckoned to be more than 280 years old and one of the oldest bridges in the country, has been conserved in their own way by Yuva Brigade by removing huge tree trunks that were stuck under the piers following floods last year and the year before last.

The huge tree trunks were colliding against the piers due to the force of water and there was a danger of the wood damaging the heritage structure. Already some bricks of the bridge and piers have given away.

The tree trunks with considerable girth were heavy and were stuck in between the piers. Due to the sheer size of the trunks, it could not have passed the piers. Instead, it was moving back-and-forth as the water level increased or decreased. In the process, the tree trunks used to hit the piers causing a perpetual thud sound, said Chandrashekar, Convener of Mysuru Yuva Brigade.

ENGINEERING MARVEL

The bridge was constructed in the 1730s by Dalvoy Devaraj, a local chieftain and a Railway track was laid over it when the metre-gauge link connecting Mysuru to Nanjangud was laid and commissioned in 1899. When East India Company Officer Reven Squadj came to meet Haider Ali at Kalale village where he was camping at, he visited the bridge and certified that Dalvoy Devaraj built the bridge in 1735. In his noting, Reven Squadj was full of praises for Dalvoy Devaraj for building such a strong bridge.

This engineering marvel was built in Gothic style and is unique in design as it accommodated metre-gauge Railway line parallel to road traffic. The bridge measures nearly 225 meters in length and has 54 piers. It served the people from 1735 to 2007. Before 1902, the bridge was used by bullock carts, horse carriages and travellers. After one-and-a-half centuries, the metre-gauge railway line was laid and the bridge became a point of convergence for both rail and carriage traffic.

Subsequently, new bridges were built in 2007 and broad-gauge line was laid there. Consequently, this particular bridge was discontinued to be used. The last metre-gauge train that ran over the bridge was on Jan. 17, 2007. After that, it was closed to traffic.

FLOOD WATER DOES THE DAMAGE

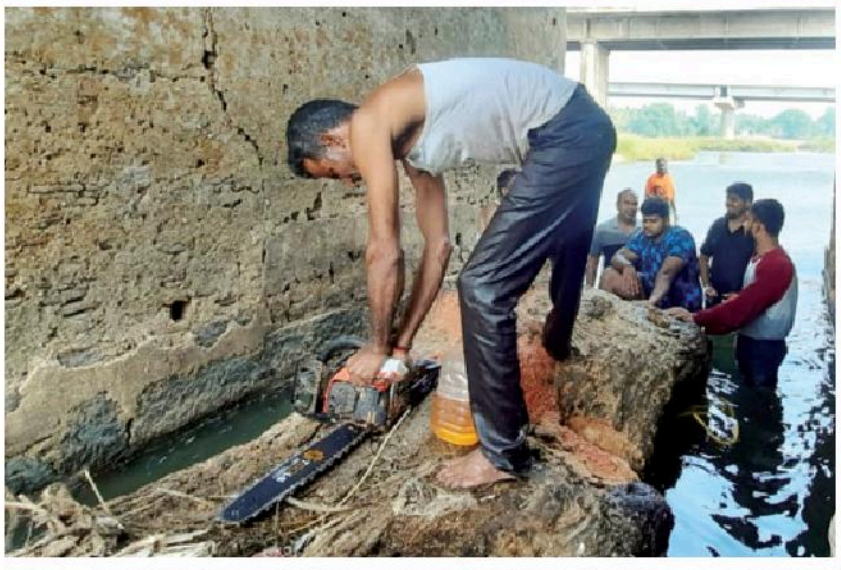
Considering the need of conserving this rail-road bridge for posterity given its heritage status, the Yuva Brigade has been clearing bushes and vegetation growth on the structure and plastering damaged piers since the last six years. Since the last two years, the Kapila River used to be in spate whenever more than 80,000 cusecs of water from Kabini Dam is released following an increase in the water level in the Dam due to heavy rains in the catchment area in Kerala.

Following the water release, trees on the banks of the river were uprooted, washed away and were stuck in the 10 piers of the heritage structure. "The huge tree trunks were damaging the 10 piers causing considerable pressure. We had to wait till this April for the water level to recede," Chandrashekar said.

BACK-BREAKING WORK

Volunteers of Yuva Brigade assembled under the bridge on Sunday (April 18) at 7 am and first used automatic saw to cut the tree trunks into smaller units so that they can be shifted out from the piers. Though the task of climbing the tree trunks to cut it was risky as it was slippery, this did not deter the Brigade volunteers and they accomplished the task successfully. By 6 pm on Sunday, all the 10 piers were cleared.

Over 10 volunteers were involved in the task and they spent Rs. 2,050 for the task that gave them immense satisfaction though it was back-breaking work. "We hired cutting machines and bought petrol and oil. Now only the bamboo have to be cleared," he added. Taluk Yuva Brigade Convener Sunil, volunteers Charan, Arjun, Srinivas, Bhaskar, Girish, Kishore and Rangaswamy participated.



Oxygen DEARTH looms large

- City requires six tonnes of medical oxygen per week
- Tough time if patients requiring oxygen increase

Mysuru, Apr. 20 (RKB,SSV&BCT)- Amid a rising COVID curve, fear of oxygen shortage looms large over private and government hospitals in city. They are facing scarcity of medical oxygen since the last one week.

The situation is likely to become grim in the coming days in case there is an exponential increase in COVID-19 cases especially if the number of patients who require oxygenated beds. All big hospitals including private and Government have reserved certain beds for patients whose oxygen saturation level is low. Continuous supply of oxygen — up to 10 litres a minute — is supplied through pipes in a pressure-controlled environment.

Oxygen is stored in liquid format and not many hospitals in city have liquid oxygen storage tanks. To cater to the oxygen supply needs of such hospitals, small cylinders are filled with oxygen by private agencies. There are a couple of oxygen supply companies in city but now they are feeling the pinch with reduced supply of liquid oxygen from other places like Bengaluru.

Liquid oxygen is supplied by big companies to smaller ones like in Mysuru in huge tankers that come by road. Suppliers say that the demand has reached the peak in Bengaluru and as such, companies have reduced oxygen supplies to smaller cities like Mysuru. Naturally, this has created a kind of scarcity as second wave of COVID-19 pandemic is hospitalising more and more people in the last one month.

SHORTAGE IN SUPPLY

Speaking to *Star of Mysore* this morning, J. Govinda Nayak of Mangala Ravi Enterprises at Yadavagiri Industrial Estate said that medical oxygen to Mysuru was supplied by Bhorukha Gas Limited, Bengaluru. Mangala Ravi Enterprises supplies oxygen to almost all hospitals in Mysuru. The company also supplies oxygen to oxygenated ambulances. "I am facing an acute shortage of liquid oxygen. The quantity of liquid oxygen supply has reduced by 50 percent," he said.

Explaining the seriousness of the situation, he said that every day he supplies 300 cylinders with 7,000-litre capacity. "There is no shortage of cylinders, but liquid oxygen is scarce. I had placed an order with suppliers last Thursday and I have enough oxygen to supply for the next two days. What after that? Usually we get six tonnes of medical liquid oxygen and the supplier has reduced the quota to 5 tonnes. The demand too has increased. Hospitals that were asking for two cylinders are now asking for four," he said.

Mangala Ravi Enterprises at Yadavagiri Industrial Estate which supplies oxygen to almost all hospitals in Mysuru.

SUPPLY TO REMOTE AREAS TOO

Govinda Nayak manages Mangala Ravi Enterprises founded by Srinivas Tantri in 1982. "We have completely stopped industrial supply of oxygen in Mysuru and are focussing only on medical oxygen supplies. We also supply oxygen to remote places like Kodagu and we send 7,000-litre cylinders in batches to Kodagu based on demand," Nayak said.

"Mysuru city needs six tonnes of oxygen per week especially now with more number of COVID positive cases pouring in. With one tonne oxygen, 600 small cylinders and 300 large cylinders could be filled up, he noted. Nayak said there were several oxygen supply companies like Padaki Gas suppliers, Southern Gas and Peenya Gas Company and they too were facing scarcity due to short supply.

Dr. Nanjundaswamy, Resident Medical Officer, Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (MMC&RI) said they have got 13 KL (Kilo Litre) capacity jumbo tank with which they are managing the situation. There are 80 oxygenated beds in K.R. Hospital. "We might fall short in case more patients with low saturation levels and co-morbidities pouring in. So far, we are not facing shortage of oxygen. But it looks like we will face a crisis in case patients increase, he added.

There is a Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) Storage Tank at K.R. Hospital that has the capacity of 13 KL. The unit was installed last year and is located behind the Stone Building. The advantage of LMO is that its total capacity is 13 KL but can be filled up to 10 KL as it will get expanded by 3 KL later.

The liquid oxygen is manufactured in a few factories at Ballari and Bengaluru from where the oxygen carrying trucks will come and refill the LMO Tank on a regular basis.

Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) Storage Tank at K.R. Hospital that has the capacity of 13 KL (Kilo Litre).

War room for medical oxygen supply

Karnataka Government has set up a war room to ensure supply of medical oxygen to hospitals. Health Minister Dr. K. Sudhakar said, "A dedicated war room has been set up at the Office of the State Drug Controller in Bengaluru to facilitate availability of oxygen in both State-run and private hospitals."

"We will supply jumbo cylinders to private hospitals, which do not have oxygen tanks, from State-run hospitals to overcome the shortage," said Dr. Sudhakar. In the four bottling plants in Karnataka, about 800 tonnes of medical oxygen is produced. However, with more patients reporting to hospitals with low saturation of oxygen, the demand exceeded the supply in spite of the Centre rushing 300 tonnes of oxygen to the State recently. The Health Minister said that they have urged the Centre to send 7,500 jumbo oxygen cylinders to meet the demand of the soaring cases in the State.

"There are seven medical oxygen production plants in Karnataka with a daily production capacity of 812 tonnes, while the medical oxygen utilised on Saturday was about 272.61 tonnes. So, I appeal everyone not to create unnecessary panic about shortage of medical oxygen in the State," the Minister tweeted.

Fake Injections

(Continued from page 1)

He had his own network through which he used to sell the drug and was assisted by a security guard Shivappa and his wife, a housekeeping staff, Mangala. She was working at a COVID Care Centre. "After sourcing the empty bottles from Shivappa and Mangala, Girish used to refill the empty vials with the antibiotic drug and repackage them as original 'Remdesivir' and sell them with the help of two medical representatives Prashanth and Manjunath," he said.

From Rs. 100 to Rs. 4,000

Girish used to spend Rs. 100 to manufacture one vial of the fake injection and used to sell the same for Rs. 4,000. A few people from Bengaluru were in touch with Girish and during interrogation, the Police came to know that Girish was earlier involved in selling fake medicines but no complaints were registered against him.

"Girish has sold over 800-900 fake Remdesivir vials to the needy. We have formally arrested Girish and have continued our investigation and are gathering more details on who bought the fake injections. Only a detailed probe will reveal the names of the persons who have been cheated," the Commissioner added.

Various drug brands

The Police have seized Rs. 2.82 lakh in cash, 41 fake Remdesivir injections of 100mg vials having stickers of various companies, 99 bottles of Ceftriaxone IP injection — used to refill the empty bottles — two empty syringes of 20 ml each, rubber and plastic caps used to repack the vials and two bottles of sodium chloride injection and saline solutions.

The seizures include 142 partially filled vials with white powder (Remdesivir injections which come in powder and liquid format, stickers of various injection brands such as Desrem, Remdac, Cipremi, Jubi-R, Redyx, COVIFOR, NS 500 ml - Sodium Chloride injection, Accuzon 1g, Atcef -100 and Cefbact.

A case has been registered at Nazarbad Police Station under IPC Section 276 (illegal sale of fake life-saving drugs), 420 read with 34 (cheating and with common intention) and Drugs and Cosmetics Act-1940 column 27 (illegal manufacture and sale of drugs). CCB will continue the investigation that has inter-city ramifications.

The special CCB Police team was led by DCPs (Law and Order) Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda and M.S. Geetha Prasanna (Crime and Traffic) and CCB ACP C.K. Ashwathnarayan. CCB Inspectors G. Shekar, R. Jagadish and V.S. Shashikumar, Sub-Inspector Anil Kumar and staff Asgar Khan, Ramaswamy, Yakub Shariff, C.N. Shivaraju, Anand, Lakshmikanth, M.R. Ganesh, Chikkanna, Narasimha, Mamatha, Goutham, Neelakantarao, Shivakumar and Rajesh were part of the operation.

No oxygen shortage, assert Minister, MP

Mysuru, Apr. 20 (RKB & BCT) - District Minister S.T. Somashekar today asserted that there was no shortage of medical oxygen in Mysuru. "COVID cases are under control in Mysuru now and the city faces no oxygen shortage. Yes, cases might double or treble in the coming days and we are discussing with the Deputy Commissioner on what steps to be taken to meet the future oxygen demand ," he told reporters in city this morning.

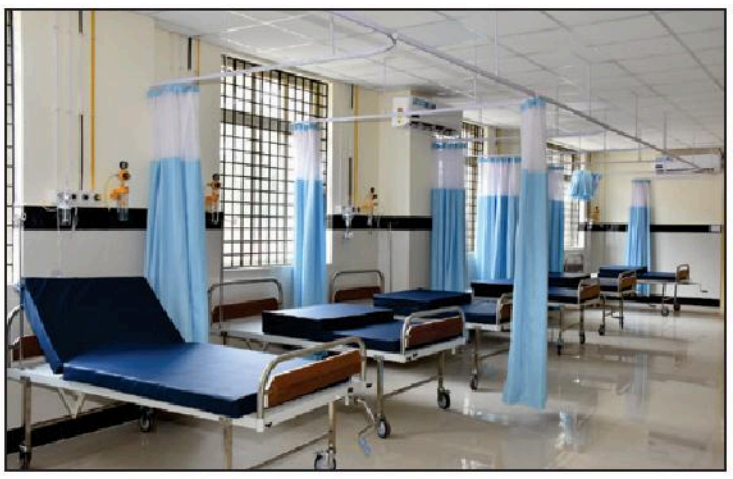
Somashekar paid a surprise visit to K.R. Hospital to see how COVID patients are treated there and took stock of the situation of food, oxygen and medical supply in wards including the ICUs along with Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha, Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri, MLA L. Nagendra and other officials and elected representatives.

The DC briefed the Minister and the MP that Mysuru needs 12 Kilo Litres of oxygen daily and the present supply stands at 13 Kilo Litres. "The death rate has increased in Mysuru as patients are rushing to the District Hospital in the eleventh hour only when they are desperate for oxygen. They are being directly taken in to the ICUs and as such there is an increase in the death rate. There is no shortage of oxygen as of now," the DC apprised the Minister.

Later, MP Pratap Simha too told reporters that as of now there is no shortage of oxygen and the Liquid Medical Oxygen Storage Tank at the Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (MMC&RI) behind the K.R. Hospital Stone Building was meeting the requirements.

The Minister told media persons that today, 47,000 vials of COVID vaccines have arrived in Mysuru to meet the immediate demand. "I am watching the situation in Mysuru closely and today's surprise visit was to actually check the ground reality. I will hold a meeting with the District Authorities today evening to discuss the future demands of beds, oxygen, medicines and also vaccination. The situation in Mysuru is not alarming as of now and we are alert," he asserted.

100 beds at Trauma Centre



(Continued from page 1)

Meanwhile, District in-Charge Minister S.T.Somashekar and Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha visited Trauma Care Centre and reviewed arrangements. He visited the blocks, checked the oxygen cylinder stock and beds. The Minister also inspected the Vaccination Centre.

Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri, MUDA Chairman H.V. Rajeev, MMC&RI Dean and Director Dr. C.P. Nanjaraj and others accompanied the Minister.

According to Health Department officers, MMC&RI authorities have thoroughly cleaned and sanitised the building. Sources said there may be shortage of doctors, nurses and paramedics at Trauma Centre. For which, the District Administration was in touch with District Health Department and MMC&RI over deputation of health staff till alternative arrangements are done.

Voluntary testing

Dr. Mohammed Shiraz Ahmed, District Tuberculosis Officer and Nodal Officer for RT-PCR testing and reporting, said people were voluntarily coming to Testing Centres to give the swab samples. There were over 20 testing centres all over the city but people were crowding at KR Hospital and near Dufferin Clock Tower (Chikka Gadiyara) Centres. Hitherto, Primary Health Centres were recording around 50-60 tests daily and now it has dropped to below ten.

Spread to rural areas

He observed that till last week, around 80 percent of positive cases were coming from city. Now, the city's share has dropped to around 65 percent and the rest from rural areas. Still there was chance to reduce the positive cases if people follow safety protocols.

Each person at COVID-19 Control Room has been assigned to track at least 20 secondary contacts and persuade them to undergo test in order to break the chain. As a result, people were coming for testing voluntarily. The total number of daily testing has gone up to 6,000 to 7,000.

Private Hospital doctors have been requested to send persons who come to them with ILI and SARI symptoms to undergo RT-PCR test, for early detection and treatment, he added.

Exorbitantly priced in the first wave too

Mysuru, Apr. 20 (BCT)- Even during the first wave of COVID-19 last year, there was a huge demand for Remdesivir injections and there was a shortage in cities including Mysuru. When the pandemic was at its peak, each vial that costs Rs. 4,500 to Rs. 5,000 was sold at a whopping Rs. 1 lakh. The drug was sold at exorbitant prices through a network outside hospitals where touts would approach anxious patient relatives who were desperately looking out for the injections.

As it was the first wave and many people were dying, Remdesivir was thought as a 'magic bullet' for critically ill patients and there was a huge demand and prices sky-rocketed too. During the present second wave, however, there have been increased cases of fake Remdesivir injections flooding the market and in many cities, the racket has been busted.

Not a 'magic bullet'

Meanwhile, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi Director Randeep Guleria has asked doctors yesterday to exercise caution while prescribing Remdesivir to patients and said that the drug being used to treat Coronavirus disease is not a 'magic bullet'. He advised doctors that the Remdesivir drug does not reduce mortality and is of no use if given to people with mild symptoms.

"It is important to understand that Remdesivir is not a magic bullet and is not a drug that decreases mortality. We may use it due to lack of an antiviral drug and it is useless if given at an early state to asymptomatic individuals or to patients with mild symptoms. It is also ineffective if administered late," Guleria said.

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Sd/-Smt. Srilatha Dixit, Advocate,
Mob: +91 9844640641
email: srilathadixit@gmail.com

Booktalk

How great men died

PREPARING FOR DEATH

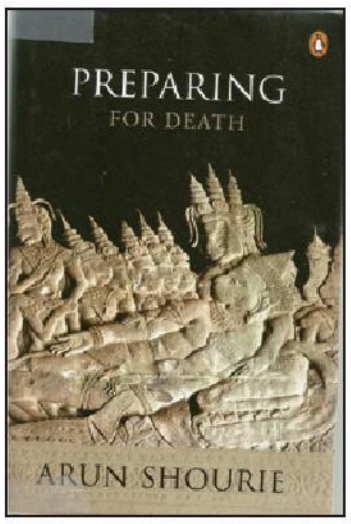
By R. Chandra Prakash

Chandra Prakash

Death has moulded attitude to life in the evolution of most of the philosophies. Death has haunted life in such a way that values became bases of religious beliefs. It will not be wrong to state that it is the fear of death which helped in visualising Gods and Goddesses.

Under its DHARMA concept, Hinduism had devised Ashrama system and divided the lifespan into four Ashramas, namely **Brahmacharya** (student), **Grihastha** (householder), **Vanaprastha** (forest walker / forest dweller) and **Sanyasa** (renunciate). Latter two Ashramas helped in the development of detachment from the worldly life and preparing for the ultimate death. Buddhism also tempered life and living with ultimate death. But it is in Jainism the death occupied the central place in life. As per S.Settar, *"It appears that none of the major religions of the world advocated in as many terms as Jains did on negative character of life and positive reasons of ending it."* Even today Jains strictly practice this aspect of their religion.

However, urbanisation and materialism, two outcomes of Economic Development, have fundamentally changed the meaning of life and the way one lives. So much so 'books written in the West report that death is kept at a great distance.' This western influence on our lifestyle has deeply distanced us from our cultural roots. Emergence of unitary families due to various socio-economic reasons has generated high degree of social isolation. It has created an illusion as if death does not befall on us, but on someone else!! India today is a country of about one hundred million elderly persons, those who have crossed sixty years of their age. And they constitute about 8.6 percent of the population. Of these older persons, 8.3 percent are males and 9 percent are females.



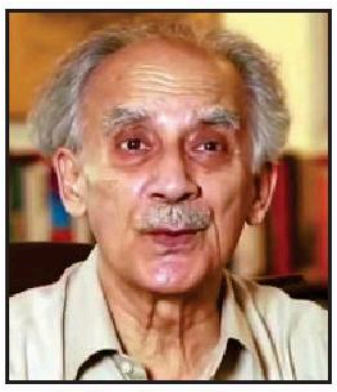
Title: Preparing for Death
Author: Arun Shourie
Pages: 516
Price: Rs. 799
Publisher: Viking - Penguin Random House, India

Arun Shourie's latest book *Preparing for Death* becomes a timely publication. Shourie is a credible researcher and prolific writer. His writings dig deep into the core of the subjects and cover newer frontiers of the theme. **In the present book, he has dealt with the last days of great men and how they confronted death.** Buddha's final years and mundane difficulties he had to face — from calumny to assassination attempts and his passing. Sri Ramakrishna's extreme infirmities and indescribable pain of his final years and his affliction with cancer, his premonition of oncoming death. Sri Ramana's mesmeric magnetism could not prevent his extreme suffering from cancer and various attempts to cure it. How Sri Ramana maintained ethereal calm compassion to the end.

He describes Gandhi's attitude to life and death. How Gandhiji faced death of his dear wife Kasturba. How Gandhi desired to die and more or less died that way...Ram on his lips to the last breadth.

Shourie in detail describes life of Vinoba Bhave and his final days. He lived a very spartan and highly clock-like precision daily life. He had even joked with his Ashram colleagues that he will die looking at clock! Shourie says "The surprising thing is that the light of his life got extinguished at a predetermined date and time."

In the middle chapters, Shourie



Author Arun Shourie

delineates into the philosophies of Sri Ramakrishna, Sri Ramana Maharshi, Gautama Buddha, Guru Govind Singh, Sant Kabir, Dalai Lama, Sufi Masters, Upanishad and others. They contain deep meaning of life and death. The entire book is enriched by quotes from great men, poets and religious books. **Despite being intellectual enrichment, they become a bit drag on reading.**

Arun Shourie is a very erudite scholar. However, his life has been a constant challenge. His only son, Adit, is physically challenged from birth. Suspected to be the result of mishandling of his birth by the doctor. Having lost one by one, the support system of a highly supportive joint family and close relatives, now his wife Anita is afflicted by the Parkinson's disease. Add to all these worries, Arun Shourie himself underwent serious health issues in 2019. His major concern all through life after the birth of his son is who will take care of Adit after both the parents are gone. Despite creation of a Trust to ensure his care, constant anxiety bothers him with that one basic question.

In the final chapter ***'And then the Pope took the two cosmonauts aside and asked...,'*** Shourie wonders our beliefs, about the concept of God and how it has been debased into brain washing, frivolousness, fundamentalism and terrorism.

This book of 19 chapters is as much an outcome of Arun Shourie's scholarship as his personal life experiences. That makes this book a very valuable publication. Despite its voluminous size (516 pages), due to its sheer research base and scientific presentation this book is a good read and addition to one's collection.

Shree Talkies relegated to the pages of history

Mysuru, Apr. 20 (YDS&BCT)- Old-timers are fascinated by buildings and the façades of single-screen theatres of Mysuru. But sadly many cinemas have become relics of the past and the ones that exist are struggling to survive in the age of plush multiplexes and overpriced popcorn, snacks and soft-drinks.

Joining the list of theatres that were demolished to make way for swanky commercial complexes is the Shree Talkies at Mandi Mohalla. It has entertained Mysureans since the past 79-odd years and the structure is being demolished. Reason: Lack of patrons, losses, high tax structure and, of course, the all-permeating COVID-19.

Located on Kabir Road in Mandi Mohalla, the Shree Talkies was a beehive of activity for over 75 years with new flicks releasing and people crowding the stands to catch hold of the tickets. The place was a haven for families, low-income groups and also the elite at times who thronged the narrow roads and by-lanes to park their vehicles. They huddled together to see a movie here after evening and also have a grub on Kabir Road and adjoining areas after the night show.

Now the landmark building will be relegated to the pages of history overnight, leaving a void among cine buffs. It joins the list of theatres including Opera Talkies on Sri Harsha Road, Ranjit Theatre on B.N. Road, Ratna, Vidyaranya, Ganesha, Shalimar and Srinivasa theatres.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, proprietor of Shree Talkies said that the theatre was 79-years-old and they purchased it from the original owners 25 years back.

"We have been successfully running the theatre since then. Single screen theatres are not so monetarily rewarding. Also, the differential in tax slabs with the MCC charging exorbitant rates (building tax, trade licence) when compared to metropolitan cities like Bengaluru is also a cause for our losses. We have planned to construct something which is viable," he said.

No movie screening at theatres from Apr. 23; Multiplexes to remain open

M.R. Rajaram, Vice-President of Karnataka Film Exhibitors Federation, yesterday said that due to prevailing COVID situation, they have decided to suspend screening of movies. In a press release, Rajaram, who also owns Gayatri Talkies in city, said that it has been decided to shut single screen theatres from April 23. As per the move, over 38 cinema theatres in Mysuru city, Nanjangud, K.R. Nagar and other towns will close from Apr. 23.

However, Multiplexes will remain open and continue movie screening. Vaishali Hanumanth of DRC Cinemas said, "We go by whatever the Government asks us to do since we believe that they are in the best position to decide whatever is good for us."

Seer compliments 'permanent' *Mukhyamantri* Chandru for his decades-old dedication

Mysuru, Apr. 20 (MK&SSV)- "A person who accidentally donned the role of *Mukhyamantri* (Chief Minister) in a Kannada play has become a 'permanent' *Mukhyamantri.* Appreciating his acting skills, the then Chief Minister R. Gundu Rao presented a gold ring to Chandru, popularly known as *Mukhyamantri* Chandru," said Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji.

The Seer was speaking after inaugurating 735th show of *Mukhyamantri,* a Hindi drama translated into Kannada and directed by Dr. B.V. Rajaram, at Kalamandira under the aegis of Kannada Sahitya Parishat, City and District Units and Bharathiya Dalita Sahithya Academy, here on Sunday.

Swamiji said H.N. Chandrashekar has been playing the role of *Mukhyamantri* for the last 41 years which has earned him a permanent moniker as *Mukhyamantri* Chandru. And the credit for this goes to Rajaram also for their bonding for over four decades. Chandru may look jovial and humorous but he will be very serious when it comes to cause of Kannada.

Recalling an incident, the Seer said J.H. Patel was jittery when he was the Chief Minister as the then MLA Chandru's name was Gazette notified as *"Mukhyamantri Chandru."*

Prof. M. Krishnegowda, retired Kannada professor and humourist, said *Mukhyamantri* Chandru loves Kannada than dramatics, and wished him to complete 1,000th show successfully.

Prof. G. Hemantha Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, University of Mysore, said the Varsity has plans to start theatre training centre and sought the support of Rajaram and Chandru.

On the occasion, Chandru and Rajaram were felicitated. K. Raghuram Vajpayee, social worker, Dr. Y.D. Rajanna, District Kannada Sahitya Parishat President, Maddikere Gopal and M. Chandrashekar, former Parishat Presidents, Rajashekar Kadamba, noted theatre personality, G.S. Somashekar, Deputy Director, Department of Backward Classes, K.S. Shivaram, Parishat City President and others were present. Later, a six-minute video on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar called "Ivare Namma Mahanayaka" was screened.

The play is seeking an entry into the Guinness World Records for the same person playing the same character for the last 41 years. This drama is full of political satire and revolves around *"Mukhyamantri"* **who does many things to save his chair.**

Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji felicitating actor** Mukhyamantri **Chandru and play Director Dr. B.V. Rajaram at Kalamandira in city on Sunday as others look on.

Gold ring presented

"Once Chief Minister R. Gundu Rao was invited to watch the play "Mukhyamantri" in Bengaluru. Chandru was under tremendous pressure since the storyline was of Gundu Rao. After the play, Rao was so much impressed with Chandru's performance that he gifted him a gold ring. Rao is learnt to have told Chandru that he would have given him some tips on CM's role had he come earlier."

—Suttur Seer

A scene from the play** "Mukhyamantri" **staged at Kalamandira in city on Sunday. Picture right shows a section of audience.

KEA Chairman assures to transform the Authority in a year

Mysuru, Apr.20 (RK&DM)- Karnataka Exhibition Authority (KEA) Chairman Hemanth Kumar Gowda has assured to transform the Authority in a year. He was speaking after being honoured at the felicitation organised by Zilla Vokkaligara Yuva Vedike at the Institution of Engineers on JLB road here on Saturday.

Pointing out that the KEA has evolved plans for making the Dasara Exhibition Grounds functional throughout the year, Hemanth Kumar Gowda said that preparations are being made for organising International Exhibitions at the venue.

Noting that an action plan is being worked out at the Government level to keep the Dasara Exhibition grounds active on all

days of the year, he maintained that he has launched many developmental activities in the Authority after he took charge as Chairman last year.

Highlighting the efforts being made to draw visitors and tourists all through the year, he said that several experts have given suggestions on holding international expos and events at Dasara Exhibition grounds. He further said that the plan has got delayed due to the adoption of Indo-Saracenic style of Architecture in the design, keeping in mind the rich Indian heritage, culture and traditions.

Referring to Cauvery Art Gallery in Dasara Exhibition premises, he said that the Gallery, which provides complete information regarding the birth of river Cauvery and all other aspects, is coming up at a cost of Rs. 3.5 crore.

Stating that the Gallery is at the completion stage, he asserted that he would take all measures to open the Gallery, which has been funded by the Union Government, as soon as possible. The Chief Minister will be invited for the inauguration of the Gallery, he said and added that the shut down Archaeological and Heritage Museum too will be part of the Gallery.

Earlier, veteran writer Dr. C.P. Krishnakumar (CPK) recalled the political growth of Hemanth Kumar right from his student days when he was very much associated with ABVP (Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad). He complimented the KEA Chairman for conducting various social service programmes such as blood donation camps.

Former Corporator Prashanth Kumar Gowda delivered the key-note address.

Adichunchanagiri Shakha Mutt Seer Sri Someshwaranatha Swamiji graced the occasion.

Mysuru District Journalists Association (MDJA) President S.T. Ravikumar, Corporator Prema Shankaregowda, Zilla Vokkaligara Yuva Vedike President Rajkumar, office-bearers A. Ravi, Srinivas, Hinkal Nagendra,Vasu, Vedaraj, Sneha, Manju, Satish, Mahesh and others were present.

WORD OF THE DAY

Abecedarian

Pronunciation: ey-bee-see-dair-ee-uhn.
Meaning: Arranged in alphabetical order.
Origin: The English noun and adjective abecedarian has several closely related senses. As a noun, it means "someone learning the letters of the alphabet," and more loosely, "a beginner in a field of learning." As an adjective, abecedarian means "pertaining to the alphabet; arranged in alphabetical order; elementary, rudimentary." Abecedarian comes from Medieval Latin abecedāriānus, a derivative of Late Latin abecedārius, an adjective and noun first used by St. Augustine of Hippo. As a masculine noun, abecedārius means "one learning the alphabet"; the feminine noun abecedāria means "elementary instruction," and the neuter noun abecedārium "the alphabet." The noun abecedarium has been in English since the days of the Old English monk and scholar Byrhtferth of Ramsey, who used the word. In modern English abecedarium is a fairly technical word, meaning "an ancient writing system using an alphabet," usually referring to the languages of ancient Italy.

THE ODD WORD

Abducent

Turning away; bearing away from.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

It's all Greek to me

Meaning: Something is difficult to understand due to its complexity.

Origin: Why do people say "it's all Greek to me"? The idea here is that foreign languages and the difficulty involved in understanding them. Indeed, imagine someone gave you instructions in an unfamiliar language. You would hardly grasp a word they are saying—it'd be unintelligible. When we're confused by something, it's as if the thing we are trying to understand is in another language. In this case, it's the Greek language.Why Greek, exactly? No idea! This common saying dates back to at least the early 17th century. It's used by two different playwrights from this time period: Thomas Dekkar and William Shakespeare. In Dekkar's play Patient Grissel from 1603, it reads: "FAR: Asking for some Greek poet, to him he fails. I'll be sworn he knows not so much as one character of the tongue. RIC: Why, then it's Greek to him." Not long after this, Shakespeare used the expression in Julius Casear, 1616: "CASSIUS: Did Cicero say any thing? CASCA: Ay, he spoke Greek. CASSIUS: To what effect? CASCA: Nay, an I tell you that, I'll ne'er look you i' the face again: but those that understood him smiled at one another and shook their heads; but, for mine own part, it was Greek to me."

QUOTE BOX

At his best, man is the noblest of all animals; separated from law and justice he is the worst. **— Plato**

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

HUGE

Answer: A big hug.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

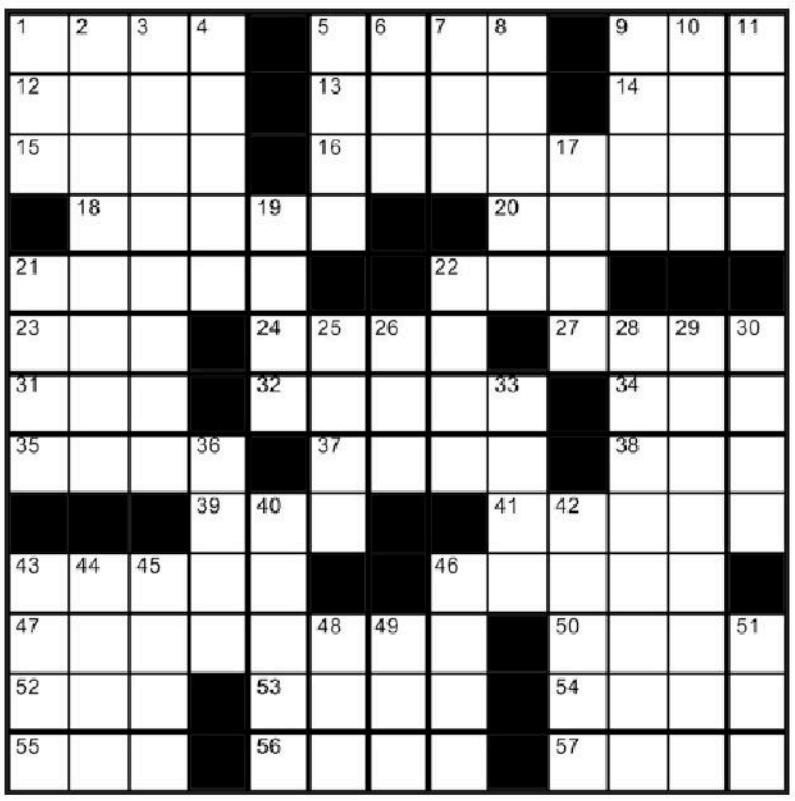
1 Japanese rice drink
5 Amitabh Bachchan of course (3,1)
9 Flight Control Sys.
12 Sleeveless garments worn by Arabs
13 Russian river
14 Suffix with "eras" or "past"
15 ___ vault : track and field event?
16 Renowned film maker ___ Ray
18 Disease spreader
20 Small antelope
21 Jewish feast-"reeds" anagram?
22 French assent
23 American Auto. Assoc.
24 Swindle or rip-off
27 Multiple choice choices
31 Instrument Landing Sys.
32 Ancient Mexican
34 Debt note (abbr.)
35 Anti-aircraft fire
37 British princess
38 Damayanti's counterpart in Indian folklore
39 Comparative ending?
41 Log
43 Subdue or quash
46 Biological group
47 Item of cooked food originating in Russia's eastern borderland (4,4)
50 Long journey
52 Ind. Admin. Ser.
53 Mystery writer___ Stanley Gardener
54 Tabula ____ : clean slate
55 To carry on a trade
56 Not dense?
57 Alternate, abbr.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

C	R	A	B	■	S	K	A	T	■	A	P	T
R	E	M	O	■	Q	U	A	E	S	T	O	R
O	S	L	O	■	U	R	G	E	N	T	L	Y
C	H	A	T	E	A	U	■	N	E	I	L	■
■	■	■	L	O	B	■	T	S	E	T	S	E
A	S	H	E	N	■	T	A	Y	■	U	T	E
S	T	A	G	■	J	O	B	■	E	D	E	N
T	I	N	■	P	A	D	■	A	V	E	R	Y
O	L	D	H	A	M	■	S	D	I	■	■	■
■	E	M	U	S	■	B	A	D	D	E	B	T
S	T	A	R	T	U	R	N	■	E	R	E	I
U	T	I	L	I	Z	E	D	■	N	O	T	E
B	O	D	■	T	I	D	Y	■	T	S	A	R

DOWN

1 Vital fluid
2 First and foremost (5,3)
3 Great Sanskrit poet of Meghadoot and Raghuvamsa
4 Grenoble river
5 Deep voice?
6 Playback singer Arun
7 Greenwich Mean Time
8 Marshy tributary
9 Japanese mountain
10 Copy from someone else's work
11 Search for extraterrestrial intelligence, acronym?
17 Opera part
19 ___ major : Big Bear in the sky?
21 Agent Vinod onscreen
22 A prophetic sign
25 Russian potentate
26 Aeronautical Telecommunications Network
28 Having two ears
29 Most rough or crude or rude
30 In its normal procedure?
33 To give up
36 Slay; 40 Senior in age
42 A prefix meaning "within"
43 Clever saying or epigram
44 Famous mountain range in Russia
45 Go __ with : be sparing or cautious with?
46 Indian clarified butter
48 Lyricist Gershwin
49 Camera type
51 Neb. neighbour



SUDOKO

	9			4			6	
3								1
		5	8		2	4		
	3		4		9		7	
	5		7		1		8	
		6	3		7	5		
4								9
	1			6			2	

Answer to previous puzzle

2	6	5	8	7	1	4	9	3
8	1	7	4	3	9	5	2	6
4	3	9	2	6	5	8	7	1
1	2	6	9	5	7	3	4	8
3	5	8	6	2	4	7	1	9
7	9	4	1	8	3	6	5	2
5	7	1	3	9	8	2	6	4
6	4	3	7	1	2	9	8	5
9	8	2	5	4	6	1	3	7

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

NKU IBUX CBM OU OCJKMIFCK FU

VAFGA JAKMK OTTOMKUJIQ FD UBJAFUX JB RB

SPJ RKIFXAJ FU AKOYKU'D VBURKMD.

TODAY'S CLUE: X EQUALS G

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: First say to yourself what you would be; and then do what you have to do.

NOW SHOWING - MOVIES

Movie	Theatre	Phone	Shows
Krishna Talkies (K)	Gayathri	2443568	4 Shows
	Sangam	2520494	4 Shows
Rewind (K)	Lakshmi	2443584	4 Shows
	Prabha	2423569	4 Shows
Yuvarathnaa (K)	Padma	2521923	4 Shows
	Mahadeshwara	9986022634	4 Shows
	Woodlands	2422871	4 Shows
Roberrt (K)	Saraswathi	2541451	4 Shows
Vakeel Saab (Te)	Lido	2420885	4 Shows
Chasing (Ta)	Rajkamal	2423554	4 Shows
Chakra (K)	Balaji Deluxe	2497199	4 Shows
Chakra (Ta)	Uma	2520009	4 Shows
	Thibbadevi	2452958	4 Shows

DRC CINEMAS — Ph: 4240422, 4241800

Yuvarathnaa (K)	(S-1)	1 pm, 4.05 pm
	(S-2)	10.20 am
	(S-4)	6.45 pm
99 Songs (H)	(S-1)	7.10 pm
	(S-3)	4.10 pm
Rewind (K)	(S-2)	1.30 pm
Karnan (Ta)	(S-2)	4 pm
	(S-3)	6.45 pm
Krishna Talkies (K)	(S-2)	7 pm
	(S-3)	10.25 am
	(S-4)	1.05 pm, 3.55 pm
Vakeel Saab (Te)	(S-3)	1.15 pm

INOX LIVE THE MOVIE — Ph: 2533444 / 2533456

Krishna Talkies (K)	(S-1)	1.40 pm
	(S-4)	5.40 pm
Yuvarathnaa (K)	(S-2)	1.00 pm, 4.40 pm
	(S-4)	10.45 am
Karnan (Ta)	(S-1)	5.20 pm
Vakeel Saab (Te)	(S-3)	1.20 pm
		5.00 pm
99 Songs (H)	(S-4)	2.20 pm

MYSURU VISION CINEMAS — Ph: 0821 - 2973519

Yuvarathnaa (K)	(S-1)	10.45 am
	(S-3)	3.50 pm, 6.45 pm
Roberrt (K)	(S-1)	3.30 pm
Karnan (Ta)	(S-1)	6.40 pm
	(S-2)	1.10 pm
Rewind (K)	(S-2)	10.45 am
Krishna Talkies (K)	(S-2)	4.05 pm, 6.50 pm
	(S-3)	11 am
Vakeel Saab (Te)	(S-4)	10.45 am, 6.45 pm
99 Songs (H)	(S-4)	1.40 pm, 4.10 pm

PVR

Forum Centre City Mall, 2nd Floor. Mob: 8951357088

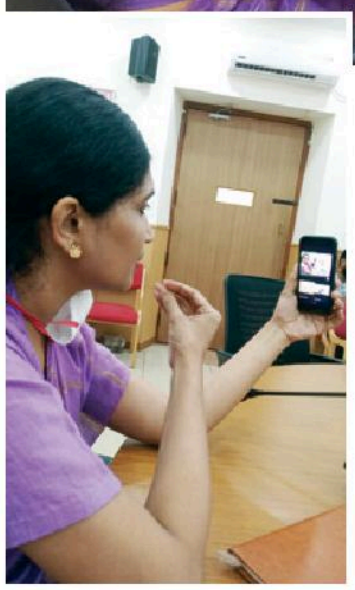
99 Songs (H)	: 11.10 am, 2.15 pm, 5.30 pm
Yuvarathnaa (K)	: 10.50 am, 5.20 pm
Vakeel Saab (Te)	: 10.40 am, 5.05 pm
Godzilla Vs Kong (E)	: 2.05 pm
Karnan (Ta)	: 11 am, 2.25 pm, 6.10 pm
Krishna Takies (K)	: 11.15 am, 2.30 pm, 5.40 pm
Kho Kho (Ma)	: 2.25 pm

Garuda Mall, 1st Floor. Mob: 9901357088

Krishna Talkies (K)	: 10.40 am, 5.15 pm
Yuvarathnaa (K)	: 1.55 pm
99 Songs (H)	: 11.05 am, 2.10 pm, 5.55 pm
Godzilla Vs Kong (E)	: 2.55 pm
Karnan (Ta)	: 11.30 am, 2.15 pm, 5.25 pm
Vakeel Saab (Te)	: 10.50 am, 5.40 pm

NOTE: Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there are no minimum audience of 15 to the film announced here.

Mandya DC holds virtual interaction with COVID patients



Mandya, Apr. 20- With the district witnessing a sudden spike in COVID-19 cases in the past few days, **Mandya Deputy Commissioner S. Aswathi** interacted with COVID patients via Zoom video application and inquired about facilities available at COVID Care Centres.

Chairing a meeting of Health Department officials and Tahsildars of Mandya district at her office here on Monday, Aswathi made a video call to a COVID Care Centre, inquired about food, drinking water, hot water and other facilities available there. She told them to contact the authorities concerned if they face any problem.

She gathered information from Health officers of Malavalli, K.R. Pet, Srirangapatna, Maddur, Nagamangala and Pandavapura Taluks of the district and directed them to provide good food and other facilities to the patients and thus ensure that there are no complaints.

Stressing on the need for tracing and testing primary and secondary contacts of infected persons, the DC asked the officials to ensure proper administration of the vaccine.

Pointing out that officials should penalise those found not wearing masks in public and also those violating COVID-19 guidelines at places of public gatherings such as Marriage Halls, Malls, festivals, fairs etc., Aswathi instructed the officials to keep a round-the-clock surveillance on violation of guidelines and SOPs at public spaces. She further directed to improve COVID-19 Care Centres in rural areas.

Taking note of increasing number of people getting home quarantined or under self-isolation in rural areas too, the DC asked the officials to keep a constant vigil on the health of such people and also to get their contacts tested as a precautionary and safety measure.

ADC Shailaja, District Health Officer Dr. Manchegowda, MIMS Director Dr. Harish, District Surveillance Officer Sanjay and other officials were present.

IPL 2021

TODAY'S MATCH (APRIL 20)

DC Vs MI — 7.30 pm

TOMORROW'S MATCHES (APRIL 21)

PBKS Vs SRH — 3.30 pm

KKR Vs CSK — 7.30 pm

YESTERDAY'S RESULT

CSK - 188 / 9 (20)
beat
RR - 143 / 9 (20)

Live Telecast on STAR SPORTS & Disney+ hotstar

[Source: www.iplt20.com]

EVENTS TODAY (APRIL 20)

- **Trayinyas Shrividya Foundation:** 12th Vasantha Navarathri Mahotsava, Shri Vidya Navadurga Homa, Trayinyas premises, #8, 7th Main, 3rd Block, Jayalakshmipuram, **5.30 pm.**
- **Children's Literary Club:** Talk on Sunny Side Museum and Indian Military History by Club Director Dr. R. Purnima, Chamundi Children's Home, II Stage Brindavan Extension, **5.30 pm.**

EVENTS TOMORROW (APRIL 21)

- **Trayinyas Shrividya Foundation:** 12th Vasantha Navarathri Mahotsava, Shrichakrarchana, Navavarna Puja, Sagrahamakha Navachandi Yaga, **10 am;** Poornahuti, Baliharana, Kumari, Suvasini, Vatuka Puja, Mahamangalarathi, Ashtavadhana Seva Prasada Viniyoga, Trayinyas premises, #8, 7th Main, 3rd Block, Jayalakshmipuram, **5.30 pm.**
- **Children's Literary Club:** Talk on "Remembering Professor C.D. Narasimhaiah during his Birth Centenary Year: Why and How" by Club Director Dr. R. Purnima, Chamundi Children's Home, II Stage Brindavan Extension, Mysuru.

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Chief Engineer, BARC-Mysuru, invites on behalf of President of India sealed item rate tenders from experienced contractor with sound financial &technical capacity for the following work:

Tender Reference No.	BARC/ACL/PVK/2021-22/404
Name of work	Technical assistance in routine non-active analysis
Estimated Cost	Rs. 3,87,000/-
Period of Completion	8 Months
Earnest Money Deposit	Submit bid security declaration form in hard copy.
Cost of Tender Document	Rs.500/- (Non-refundable)
Sale of Tender Documents	From 19-04-2021 to 27-04-2021. at 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Interested bidders may please refer detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details,which can be downloaded from web site www.barc.gov.in

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DIPR/DDMYS/MCA/59/2020-21

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